**DRAFT RCN Minutes of 4-13-2012 Meeting via Conference Call**

**Attendance included:**

Alvin Luedke

Ann Fritchel

Carl Ellis

Christine Iverson

Dave Ruesink

Ed Kail

Elen Colglazer

Gary Goreham until 9:50

John Young

Judy Heffernan

Julia Kuhn Wallace

Lon Oliver

Mark Yackel-Juleen

Susanna Metz at 10:00

Meeting was called to order by Alvin Luedke at 9:00 Central  
1**. Opening devotion** – Mark Yackel-Juleen   
  
2. **Executive Secretary’s Report** – David Ruesink

Activities included:

* Working with webmaster to set up the current website
* Requesting resources and links for the website
* Contacting membership about contribution to budget
* Sending out invoices when requested
* Receiving contributions and forwarding them to the Treasurer
* Contacting RCN listserv about conference call
* Working with RCN Executive Committee regarding meeting agenda
* Screening email and forwarding those with relevance to listserv
* Responding to inquiries regarding RCN
* Requesting material to post on website
* Learning how to make changes or add material on website
* Acknowledging emails received on behalf of RCN

**Recommend that the new by-laws change would open door for individual contributions. Should send out another reminder now. Direct them to the website.**

3. **Treasurer’s Report** – Lon Oliver

Beginning balance $4,241.53. Sent $800 to Dave for Jan. thru April and $77.50 for Jake for Jan. thru March website. Current $3,364.03.

Incoming gifts are mailed to Executive Secretary who records them and forwards them to Lon. Lon would like to have a review of the system between now and the fall meeting. He suggested that another system would allow him to be a Development officer rather than Treasurer. **The Executive Committee will study this and make a proposal at the next meeting.**

4. RCN By-Laws —Alvin Luedke and John Young

Alvin sent the proposed changes out 30 days ago. These reflected the realities of different type of membership with less resources available for travel to meetings. John and Christine moved to adopt the proposed by-laws. Alvin highlighted the major changes which were:

\*Mission statement changes and reflected into Article 1 and 2. \*Membership collapsed organizations and other major denominations. \* \*Need two organizational members for business.

\*Opened for general interest persons away from organizations. \*Executive Secretary and Treasurer have unlimited terms.

\*Recommended annual contribution from all organizations to be $300

**Hearing no one to be opposed, the proposed changes were adopted by unanimous consent.**

5**. Elections**  
  
      **Chairperson** –odd number years

Alvin elected by unanimous vote for one more term then next year would negotiate because he delayed a year before taking office so next year would discuss starting time of next Chairperson   
  
      **Vice-chairperson** –even numbered years

Mark Yackel Juleen is eligible for another term. Elected unanimously.

**Executive Secretary** –even numbered years

Dave Ruesink is willing to serve. Elected unanimously

      **Treasurer** –odd numbered years

Lon Oliver has served about five years.

Elected unanimously with proviso of his request to re-examine position.  
  
**Executive Committee** member at large

Ed Kail was elected unanimously as an interim until UMRF names a female successor within the year.

6. **Rural Sociology Society Session**  
Arrangements were made with the program Chair of the RSS by Gary Goreham for a special session on Rural Church. The session was requested but Gary has not heard yet about acceptance. The session will be in Chicago July 26-29, 2012,  Palmer House Hotel, Chicago, IL. Information is available on the RSS website at: [www.ruralsociology.org](http://www.ruralsociology.org).

Papers submitted from:

* + Kenny Sherrin
  + Bill Kemp
  + Shannon Jung

7. RCN Archives – David Ruesink

Cushing Library at Texas A&M University agreed to archive RCN and a local community volunteer was interested in assisting with organizing all material. Shortly after starting the organizational process, the library Dean decided that students rather than community citizens would be most appropriate to work on the collection. Right now it is on hold.

AMERC had similar situation. Carl wondered about making it a group project. Students could work with the community volunteer on site as learning experience. This would be especially useful if the students are interested in rural church work.

**Authorize Dave on behalf of RCN to visit with library regarding what they have in mind with student usage and continuing to be archives.**

8. Website Development and Resources – David Ruesink

Jake Ruesink has been hired as the webmaster. He liked Weebly as the host site because of its low cost and ease of working with it. All of the resources that have been provided are posted on the website.

-Materials that relate to rural churches to help with rural ministry. Topics for developing material or some that is already available.

-Copyrighted material needs to have permission to post.

-Need to see clear invitation for submissions for consideration and instructions on how to send how it is posted. **Consideration to be posted by Executive Committee and knowledgable person.**

-The webmaster should obtain permission to copy for one-time use in local congregation or situation.

-Pre-emptivly copywrite is a way to work it out.

-Will probably evolve over years depending on submissions and usage.

-The entire list serve needs to encourage colleagues to share through RCN website.

-Need to alert seminaries and other church related organizations that material exists.

**Carl Ellis and Mark moved to provide Jake $250 as thanks for his work. In the future will receive $20 per hour for work. Dave abstained**.

9. Rural Social Science Education (RSSE)– Lon Oliver and Kenny Sherrin

Gary Goreham reviewed background. NDSU digitized info and had good uses for a couple of years through the Distance and Continuing Educational office. RSSE now needs to be located in new home. Mark Yackel-Juleen, Lon Oliver, and Kenny Sherrin needs to get together to explore having the program at AMERC**. Revisions need funding with the Louisville Foundation being suggested as one possibility. Lon will check on this**. Mark wonders what ballpark figure for someone to monitor materials and student usages. $25K per year for ½ FTE.

Judy wonders about academic credit needed so how academic does the person need to be. 80 percent CEU. Good to have academic institution like seminary. Revision by skilled individuals with eye to keep it current. Could use at seminaries as independent study. Platform for independent study. Requires a faculty to bring in material and assign a grade. Christine pointed out that one of main usages is for pastors to learn their individual community and broaden understanding of rural ministry in their community. Don’t make so academic that it could lose the PROCESS rather than content. Went CEU route because it was set up through NDSU. Otherwise may not need academic and upgrading if used as a tool for pastors.

Break down into stages. Get material into usable form. Now available: are two studies on communities, two the rural church, one on ethics and one on family plus a facilitators guide.

\*Instructions and exercises need some updating.

\*Some needs to be archived.

**Gary will work on helping Gary, Lon, Mark and Kenny to see the material**.

**Preliminary report by July with Conference call for all interested. Gary will set up emails** [**gary.goreham@ndsu.edu**](mailto:gary.goreham@ndsu.edu) **to bring group together.**

10. **Next Meeting, Fall 2012 September 21 at 1:00 pm through September 22 at 9:00 pm  
                Lon extended invitation to Casper, WY September 21-22**

-Could fly into Denver and drive 220 miles

-One day early for pre-session on domestic energy in the area wind, gas, and uranium are all possibilities.

11. **Meeting in Spring 2013 to be a conference call with the date to be determined later.**  
                 
12. **Reports**

**Send information to Dave to share on the listserv**

13. Other items

Pray for Guidance for faithful discernment in the selection of a three-year moderator for the United Church of Canada when John Young will be one of 13 nominees being considered this fall.  
  
14. Closing devotion/prayer – Mark Yackel-Juleen

Notes for the meeting were prepared by Dave Ruesink on 4/13/12